

Professors, students
lend hand to
Matamoros colonia

Students in the
schools of Health
Sciences and Education
will help to improve the
living conditions of resi-
dents in Matamoros'
Colonia Derechos
Humanos (Human
Rights neighborhood)
this semester.

The Hunt is on

The Student
Activities Scavenger
Hunt kicked off Feb. 3
and will run through
Saturday. Items on the
list range from the mun-
dane (a skateboard) to
the bizarre (glow-in-the-
dark ice cream).

Scorpions split two
with Laredo, get
chomped by Gators

The UTB/TSC
Scorpions had little
venom in their sting as
they accumulated a 1-4
record during their sea-
son-opening week, split-
ting a doubleheader
against Laredo
Community College on
Feb. 4 at Edinburg and
being swept at home by
top-ranked San Jacinto
College-North on Feb.
1-2.

University implements hiring freeze

By John Strubelt
Collegian Editor

University officials have implemented a hiring freeze in order to help meet the state mandated budget cuts.

In an interview with The Collegian last week, Vice President for Business Affairs

Rosemary Martinez said the freeze would help meet the 7 percent cut in the current budget sought by Gov. Rick Perry for all state agencies.

"Last week Gov. Perry sent out a letter to all state agencies asking us to cut budgets by 7 percent in order to come up with an estimated \$700 million budget short-

fall in the current fiscal year; that's the year that ends Aug. 31 of this year," Martinez said.

In response to the governor's letter, Mark G. Yudof, chancellor of the University of Texas System, issued a statement that all UT components would work together to meet this 7 percent cut.

Because the UT System had some available funding, components were only required to cut their budgets by 4.9 percent. UTB was required to reduce its \$84.7 million budget by \$1.7 million.

The hiring freeze allows for

See 'Budget,' Page 5

After 10,000th student, goal now is 20,000

By Ildefonso Ortiz
Tiempo Nuevo Editor

After attaining the goal of enrolling 10,000 students, UTB/TSC administrators have set their sights on finding creative ways to reach the 20,000 mark by the year 2010, despite planned statewide education budget cuts.

Linda Fossen, assistant vice president for Enrollment Planning, said the official head count as of Feb. 4 totaled 10,032. This figure consists of 795 graduate students and 9,237 undergraduate students. By comparison, there were 9,970 students last fall--782 graduate students and 9,188 undergradu-

See 'Enrollment,' Page 2

The race is on



DAMARIS GLORIA/COLLEGIAN

Political science major Yvette Lastra and Scorpion pitcher Charles Montalvo race in the courtyard of the former Student Center during Spirit Day Jan. 31. Each received a T-shirt. The event also featured a musical performance by The Chase.

SGA commits to fund-raiser for Longoria playground

By Analiz Gonzalez
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association has passed a resolution to raise funds to donate to the Getting Involved in Volunteer Efforts Committee (GIVE), which will buy new playground equipment for the pre-kindergarten students of Longoria Elementary.

The SGA voted Jan. 31 to spend \$800 for the purchase of snacks to sell during the Texas Scholastic Region 8 Chess Tournament that was scheduled to take place on campus this past weekend.

"There will be three [thousand] to four thousand people on campus next weekend that are going to be spending money," SGA President Edward Camarillo said.

"Therefore, we are going to work for it and help the committee out. It is not for us but it is a good investment for those kids out there."

Camarillo explained the condition of Longoria's current Pre-K playground, which has been closed because of safety concerns.

"They have chained and locked the park, and it's pretty sad that the

kids don't have anywhere to actually play," he said.

After recouping its investment on the snacks, the SGA will donate any profits to the GIVE Committee.

In other business, Camarillo mentioned the successful results of a letter written by SGA on

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Enrollment

Continued from Page 1

ates.

"We've had the goal to reach 10,000 [students] for the last several years, and so we are very excited to have reached that goal," Fossen said. "Our ultimate goal is to have 20,000 students by 2010. And we think we will meet that Strategic Plan goal with the emphasis that we have on recruitment and retention right now."

That goal may be tougher to reach in the wake of a 7 percent budget cut for all state agencies effective this fiscal year and an expected 12.5 percent cut over the next biennium. The belt-tightening is a result of the state's budget shortfall.

Fossen, however, said that despite the planned budget cuts on education, she remains optimistic about reaching the 20,000 mark.

"It creates more challenges for us," she said. "I think it would have been easier to facilitate our goal of 20,000 students by 2010 having a more stable budget picture. However, I don't think it's impossible. In fact, I think it's entirely possible that we will plan to still meet that goal. We will just have to be more creative and innovative. We're looking right now at ways to be more effective and efficient in our use of resources."

And I think that with the wonderful people here and excellent community support we'll make that happen."

In order to achieve the 20,000-student goal, Fossen said the university would need to continue the rapid growth it has been experiencing lately. This semester, the university experienced a 9 percent increase in growth from Spring 2002, and Fall 2002 had a 7 percent increase from Fall 2001.

"Our short-term goal is to maintain that rate of growth," she said. "In order to realize our 20,000 students by 2010, we're actually going to have to have about a 9 percent growth for each of the next years until 2010," she said. "And we're on target for that right now."

The 10,000th student is Aidee Matamoros, a business major.

"She's a returning student," Fossen said. "She originally was a student who was majoring in early childhood and decided to change her major. That's not unusual, our students career explore and change direction. She's really a fine student and we are very excited she's our 10,000th student."

Asked whether the university is adequately accommodating its growing student population, Fossen replied, "We have had excellent reviews regarding

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Briefs

UTB/TSC Business Technology students will provide free income tax assistance from 4 to 7 p.m. every Monday and Tuesday until April 15 in Rusteberg Rooms 166 and 210. To qualify for tax help, individuals must be students or taxpayers with limited income, disabilities, non-English speaking or elderly. Taxpayers must bring the following: this year's tax package and/or label, all forms including W-2 and 1099s (interest income), information for other income, deduction/credits, a copy of last year's tax return and original Social Security cards for taxpayers and dependents. For more information, call the Business Technology Department at 983-7835 or 548-6574.

Career Services will conduct a workshop titled "Cover Letters" from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union's Gardenia Room. For more information, call 544-8292.

Greg Critser, a freelance writer specializing in nutrition, health and medical issues, will discuss America's obesity epidemic on "**Society Under Fire**," which airs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday on KMBH-FM (88.9). Critser is the author of "**Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World**" (Houghton Mifflin, 2003). **David Pearson**, associate professor in the Behavioral Sciences Department, hosts the program.

Eldon Nelson, dean of the School of Health Sciences, will address the **Student Government Association** during its general meeting at 1:30 p.m. Friday in the Student Union veranda. For more information, call the SGA at 554-5034.

The **UTB/TSC Alumni Association** will host a Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday in the Student Union veranda. The Take Two band will perform. Tickets are \$65 per couple. To purchase tickets, call 548-6575.

The **University of Texas Medical Branch** in Galveston is hosting its annual Spring Premed Conference Saturday. UTB/TSC science majors interested in visiting UTMB should contact **Sandra Gerace** at 554-5059 or at shgerace@utb.edu.

The **Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society** will meet at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Student Union's Jacaranda Room. For more information, e-mail **Janie Ureña** at janieurena@hotmail.com.

The Rio Grande Valley Branch of the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** will hold its second annual **Freedom Fund Banquet** at 7 p.m. Saturday at Brownsville Events Center, No. 15 Event Center Dr. Keynote speaker will be Carmelita Pope Freeman, regional director of Community Relations Services for the Southwest Region of the Department of Justice. For more information, call (956) 687-7305.

Applications for the Community Transfer Scholarship Program sponsored by the **Hispanic Scholarship Fund** must be postmarked by Saturday. Applicants must be of Hispanic heritage, U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, part-time or full-time community college students with a minimum GPA of 3.0, and have plans to enroll full time at a four-year accredited U.S. institution in the 2003-2004 academic year. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,500. For more information, visit the Web site www.hsf.net or the Financial Assistance Office.

The **St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet** will perform Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty" at 8 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Jacob Brown Auditorium. For ticket information, call UTB/TSC Arts & Entertainment at 983-7945.

The **Conflict Resolution Center** will conduct a workshop titled "Handling Anger" Feb. 26, from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday in Cortez 204. For more information, call Conflict Resolution Center Director **Ethel Cantu** at 544-8868.

The **University Book Club** will discuss "The Wooden Sea" by Jonathan Carroll at noon Feb. 28 at the University Bookstore. For more information or to reserve a seat, contact Javier Martinez, assistant professor of English and Speech, at jmartinez@utb.edu.

The Hispanic Heritage Awards Foundation is accepting applications for its **2003 Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards**. The deadline to submit an application is March 6. To qualify for the awards, **high school seniors** must show an interest in one of the following categories--academic excellence, health and science, leadership and community service, journalism, mathematics or sports--and demonstrate excellence in academics and a commitment to community service. Candidates also must write an essay about the influence of their Hispanic heritage in their lives. Winners will receive educational grants of \$2,000 and \$1,000. One national winner will receive an additional \$5,000 educational grant and a laptop computer. For more information and to download an application, access the Web site www.HispanicHeritageAwards.org.

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Professors, students lend hand to Matamoros *colonia*

By Analiz Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Students in the schools of Health Sciences and Education will help to improve the living conditions of residents in Matamoros' *Colonia Derechos Humanos* (Human Rights neighborhood) this semester.

The *colonia* is located in south Matamoros and is about a half-hour's drive from the Veterans Bridge at Los Tomates. It is made up of about 100 families with an average of five children each. Eighty percent of the parents are unemployed.

"These people came north for jobs and they couldn't find them, so they are living in the dumps," said Mary G. Curtis, associate professor of School Specialties. "The only way that they have to support themselves is to go through the dumps looking for trash to repair and sell. As you can imagine that is not a very healthy place to live so we are trying to give them what we can within the limitations of their environment."

Sonia Cunningham, an associate master technical instructor in the

Nursing Department, had been involved in community projects at *Colonia Derechos Humanos* for two years when she discovered that Curtis was doing the same.

"She came over during Thanksgiving," Cunningham said, "and she was saying to me, 'I'm gonna take these blankets over there,' and I asked her, 'To which colonia is that?' and it turns out that that was the same colonia I was working with and so we decided to work together."

"The school benefits because it is very good for community relations and we have the expertise, so why shouldn't we share."

Ten students from Cunningham's nursing class, "Care of Clients with Health Problems," participating in this project will not only acquire experience through teaching the residents



Sonia Cunningham

firsthand, but they also will learn to appreciate what they have.

"Really, I think that gratitude is the thing that comes to mind when I go there," Cunningham said. "[The students] will learn ... not to take things for granted."

Students will inform colonia residents about things they learned in nursing or education.

"I'd like to get the education students involved in helping parents do early intervention on language delay and motor skills," Curtis said, "so that their kids will be better prepared to go to school."

"We also want to educate them in procedures that help prevent people from getting sick, such as the importance of boiling their water and using disinfectants. The doctor that works in the colonia [Dr. Nancy Gonzalez from Mano a Mano] has requested information on nutrition, on hygiene that will prevent the spread of cold or flu and on the need for [breast cancer] screening, and then in March or April the doctors will be going over with portable equipment and do mammograms."

Supplies are sold to the people at

very low prices so that they will not think it is a handout.

"We are hoping that since they have to buy their services, they have to buy their clothing, they have to pay the doctor, they won't take it for granted," Curtis said. "They have the opportunity to retain their dignity while they work to improve their own life."

The expected outcomes of the project are to provide health services for the community, assist residents and address their health care needs with available resources, Cunningham said.

"Whatever impacts Mexico impacts us because the border is so close and we need to get a grip and not pretend that it's not going to happen," Cunningham said. "We are one country, basically one world. I am very passionate about that because it's the truth and it is no good to pretend otherwise. It is in my best interest to help improve everybody's living conditions."

Donations of children's clothing, school supplies, medical drugs, antibiotics, fever breakers, blankets, etc. may be dropped off with Curtis in North Hall 103F at the end of the semester.

Celebrating **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February 10-22

Adventures in Africa

Picture display by *Millie Clark*,
UTB/TSC Arnulfo Oliveira Library

February 10-28

Brownsville Raid

Display, UTB/TSC Arnulfo Oliveira Library

February 14

The Souls of Black Folks: "Centennial Reflections"

Chief *Luis Barker*, Keynote Speaker

Soul Food Sampling

United States Border Patrol

10 a.m. to noon

El Gran Salón, UTB/TSC Student Union

For more information, please call the
Dean of Students Office at 554-5115

February 17

"The Meaning of Civil Rights Movement for Hispanics"

By *Luis Rodriguez-Abad*, Keynote Speaker
UTB/TSC Behavioral Sciences Department

7 to 9 p.m.

SET-B 3rd floor Conference Room

February 19

Brownsville Raid

Presentation and video in Hunter Room

2-4 p.m.

UTB/TSC Arnulfo Oliveira Library

February 24

"Lessons Learned from Martin Luther King:

A non-violent protest"

By *Ethel Cantu*, Keynote Speaker

4-5 p.m.

UTB/TSC Behavioral Sciences Department

SET-B 3rd floor Conference Room

The Hunt is on

By Leslie Robinson

Staff Writer

Twelve student organizations are on the hunt for items that could fetch one of them a prize of \$750.

The Student Activities Scavenger Hunt kicked off Feb. 3 and will run through Saturday. Items on the list range from the mundane (a skateboard) to the bizarre (glow-in-the-dark ice cream).

"It's some wild stuff, it's a bit obscure," said Eloy Alvarez, student development specialist for the Office of Student Activities.

He said this year's game encourages players to think out of context. Players must also hunt down UTB/TSC individuals, asking them to cooperate by dressing up as characters ranging from rap stars and the Reservoir Dogs to the Iron Chef. These characters will bring in at least 200 points each.

Dean of Students Mari Fuentes-Martin is being asked to dress as a UTB/TSC cheerleader and perform a cartwheel (worth 20 bonus points).

Volleyball coach Roy "Skippy" Brown is being asked to dress like Russell Crowe in "Gladiator."

Alvarez, himself, must dress like the

principal in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

One of the challenges may even be life-changing for a couple, as teams must find a couple who must get married--legally--at the hunt. Tying the knot is worth 200 points.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Alvarez said about the hunt.

Organizations participating in the Scavenger Hunt are the Criminal Justice Association, ASPIRE, Students Toward Excellence in Medicine, Disney Association, Chess Club, the Student Government Association, the UTB Anime Club, and White Hall 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, made up of student housing residents.

The closing will take place at the former Student Center on Saturday, with judging at 10 a.m. Participants must present their items and the "characters" taking part in the event by noon.

After points are tallied, each team must take part in an Olympics with several events, including a "Fear Factor" contest that includes eating jalapeños, pickled pig's feet and pickled eggs. A Trivia Bowl will follow.

"In the past this was the difference between winning and losing," Alvarez said. "The group that won, won it in the Trivia Bowl."

SGA

Continued from Page 1

behalf of the Bachelor of Applied Technology Program, which got under way last semester.

"SGA helped write the letter and obviously the BAT has been published and we got a \$220,000 grant for two years," Camarillo said. "This sets a standard for what SGA is doing and for what SGA will do again."

Vice President for Public Relations Michelle Garcia asked fellow members to participate in Civic Engagement Week Feb. 16-22, sponsored nationwide by the National Campus Compact, a coalition of public and private presidents of higher education institutions in 45 states. The purpose of Civic Engagement Week is to increase, celebrate and deepen the student civic engagement efforts on college campuses.

"We have over 600 other colleges in the U.S. joining in order to promote awareness in order to educate our students, community, faculty members, everyone," Garcia said.

The "Raise Your Voice-A Week of Action" schedule is as follows:

Feb. 17-21: Voter registration, from 9 a.m. to noon at the gazebos

Feb. 17: "Awareness Pachanga," 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the gazebos

Feb. 18: "Public Official Forum Day," 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the SET-B Lecture Hall.

Feb. 19: "Community Service Agencies Day," 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Paseo.

Feb. 20: "Food, Clothes and Blood Drive and Multicultural Day," 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at North and South halls.

Feb. 21: "Spirit Day," 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the gazebos

Lower Level Senator Carolina Bocanegra reported that she has been gathering information concerning the proposed official ring of UTB.

Freshman Senator Michael Camarillo said The Scorpion Academy, which will "serve as a positive resource for those students interested in law enforcement and also for others who wish to acquire more knowledge in this field" is going to be taking place from March 19-25.

"It is going to be the first ever Scorpion Academy," said Garcia, "You can't find anything else like it in the state of Texas."

Club Spotlight

Name: Gorgas Science Society

Purpose: To expose students to environmental issues, concerns, and careers; to encourage and develop student interest in natural sciences, further encouraging them to participate in community service in relation to the environment; and to create awareness of nature through experiences such as trips to Rancho del Cielo.

Established: 1948

President: Sulema Castro

1st Vice President: J. Rojas

2nd Vice President: Henry Saldivar

Secretary: Silvia Reyes

Historian: Cori Fernandez

Parliamentarian: Joe Lee Rubio

Reporter: Kevin Garcia

Advisers: Guillermo Aguilar,

Genaro Lopez

Events and community service: Include Earth Day, Día del Río, Rio Reforestation, RGV Birding Festival, Beach Cleanup, Boo-at-the-Zoo, Zoofari, Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge and Los Fresnos Butterfly Garden. Take tours at the zoo, field trips to Rancho del Cielo, Boca Chica Beach and local wildlife preserves. Invite speakers to meetings.

Membership: Open to all students.

Meets: At 1 p.m. every Friday in Life and Health Sciences Room 2.806.

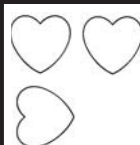
For more information: call 554-5050 or send e-mail to gorgas@yahooogroups.com.

--Compiled by Leslie Robinson



ALEJANDRO RIVERA/COLLEGIAN

Members of the Gorgas Science Society include (front row, from left) Armando De Anda, Cori Fernandez, historian; Silvia Reyes, secretary; J. Rojas, first vice president; and Sulema Castro, president. Second row: Kevin Garcia, reporter; Carmen Perez; Luis Peña; Marvelia Salinas; Alondra Salinas; Joe Lee Rubio, parliamentarian; Henry Saldivar, second vice president; and Mario Hinojosa.



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Budget**Continued from Page 1**

funds that would have been used for faculty and staff to meet the 4.9 percent reduction. Also, officials used the university's emergency operating reserve of about \$80,000, as well as available staff benefits for vacant positions and unbudgeted health and life insurance revenue.

"We basically looked at the areas that would be the least painful, at least for this year," Martinez said.

Representatives from each division as well as Academic Senate President Bill Harris and Staff Senate President Emilia Taylor were among the group that made the decisions on the cuts.

Because the state also has called for a 12.5 percent budget cut for all state agencies over the next biennium, the same group will have some tough decisions to make for next year's budget and will require a different approach from the cuts made to reach the mandated 4.9 percent cut.

"We won't be able to do that next biennium obviously, because those positions--particularly the faculty positions--will have to be filled, and in all likelihood, they'll be filled for the entire academic year," Martinez said. "So, we're currently evaluating how we're going to achieve the requested adjustment for the next biennium."

As of press time, figures for next year's proposed budget were still not available.

Asked if going back to a 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. workday on Fridays would be considered to cut expenses, Martinez said, "I don't see how it's going to cut any significant amount of expenses. Bottom line is that there are enough personnel around and were enough personnel around before in the afternoon, that there was no significant savings in utilities. And bottom line is that our students want to be able to come to lab on a Friday afternoon, they expect the labs to be open. So for us to say we're going to cut utilities ... is really not serving the purpose that we should be serving and that is accommodating the students' needs."

While budget cuts may be a blow to the university's request from the Texas Legislature for 49 faculty and 16 staff positions for next year, officials are hopeful and will continue the request.

"I believe that there is going to be room for our legislative workers, which includes [UTB/TSC President Juliet V.] García, [Vice President for External Affairs Tony] Zavaleta and our state reps and state senators to argue that for a young institution like ours and for a growing institution like ours, to treat us the same as others and to reduce our budget at the same levels certainly takes us two giant steps backwards when we're trying to take two giant steps forward," Martinez said.

Asked how the university will make these cuts for the future and still manage to increase enrollment, Martinez said, "Very creatively. That's really the only way it's going to work. If we're going to have to sustain these budget cuts--and again, we're going to be hopeful that we'll be successful in arguing that we need the money--but in the event that we have to experience the cut, it's going to be very important that we really, truly look at current budget allocations, determine whether the amounts are adequate or may be in excess or whether maybe some areas can do with a little less so that others can have a little bit more or to provide an area where we can reduce the budget."

Martinez gave faculty and staff a word of caution:

"We're so far away from knowing what the final numbers are, and it's my job, it's our job, to go through the process and begin to look at what-ifs so that we can be prepared. But, it's too early to begin to speculate and I would just ask folks to not speculate about where the cuts would occur. If we have to reduce amounts we're going to do it as a group, we're going to make the best decision possible, we're going to look for ways that will be the least painful to the campus and then look at ways of doing this without jeopardizing the education, the level of education and the quality of education that we provide students."

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From the Counselor's Desk ...

By **Ricardo Ayala III**
Counselor

Greetings! Valentine's Day is just around the corner. It is a day for good friends and being in love. It is a day to express and show love to your partner. Life is filled with love, and in life we all experience different cycles and stages.

As with all relationships, there are different stages of love, and couples can find themselves fluctuating between the stages and this may contribute to their uncertainty and commitment. However, there is hope on the horizon as one begins to understand and become aware of what is happening within the relationship.

In his book, "Getting the Love You Want" (1988, Henry Holt and Co. Inc.), psychologist Harville Hendrix, psychologist talks about the five stages of love. They are:

Romantic Love: This stage occurs during the first three to six months of a new relationship. This is the stage to build a positive foundation. It is here where he/she buys cards, writes poet-

ry, gives flowers, chocolates, and has fun being in love with his/her partner. It feels good to be in love, his/her brain is filled with endorphins, that "feel good" chemical. Life is good, dating, eating out, going to the movies, going to the park, it's as if he/she is on top of the world. Nothing can get you down.

Power Struggle: In this stage, he/she attempts to control the relationship. It's as though he/she tries to out do the other; in getting their partner gifts, doing little nice things for them, going out of their way to be all he/she is looking for in a potential partner. It is not enough that their partners are affectionate, fun-loving, and attentive. Now they have to satisfy undisclosed expectations.

Awareness: In this stage, he/she realizes that their potential mate has gifts and flaws but accepts them for who they are. Sometimes, he/she realizes they are treating and reacting to each other as though they are their parent, and in this insight they are OK with it, but want to change themselves to improve for their potential

partner.

Transformation: Both partners begin to take an honest inventory of their own issues and attempts to resolve them in a spirit of collaboration. In this stage, they learn what it means to be truly in love with their chosen partner, because they want to improve their relationship through communication, trust, and maintaining personal boundaries.

Reality Love: Each partner is in touch with his/her own wants and needs, but is also tuned in to the needs, wants, fears, etc. of the partner and both make an honest attempt to improve and strengthen their relationship. He/she wants to express their innermost thoughts, feelings, desires, and dreams to their chosen partner. He/she grows in psychological and emotional intimacy, the bond grows stronger and deeper.

In what stage would you find your current relationship? As you will note, relationships can be exciting, adventurous, nurturing, fulfilling, and loving, and plenty of work. Most people would like to embrace and

maintain such a relationship.

Remember to give your partner three things: T.L.C.--trust, love and communication. Trust one another and practice fidelity and interdependence. Become an active listener and communicate your feelings and issues with respect and thoughtful consideration. Love your partner for who he/she is, not for whom you would like him/her to be. Be a friend; laugh and cry together; share your joys and sorrows, your setbacks and your victories. Promote and encourage your partner's self-esteem by exercising caring, loving behavior. Be open to constructive criticism, so that you may mutually grow in your relationship.

Life can be stressful and hectic, and sometimes a person may forget the little things that made us fall in love. Love is the glue that binds the ingredients of trust, communication and fidelity together. Have a happy Valentine's Day--may it be filled with plenty of love and pleasant surprises--from Counseling and Career Services, Tandy 205, 544-8292.

Enrollment Continued from Page 2

the quality of our instruction from our students. We also look at our service level. We ask students in the community to comment on how we can improve or what we are doing well in the service sector and we are making adjustments based on those comments from our community and our students. I think we are accommodating the students really well."

The assistant vice president said that as a way to improve recruitment and retention, the administration has put together the Enrollment Management Advisory Committee, which is made up of more than 50 members of the community, students, faculty and staff.

"They're working in subcommittees, most of the subcommittees have between five and 10 members," Fossen said. "They're cross-functional committees ... who are developing goals, objectives, action plans and timelines to create a five-year plan for improving the

recruiting and retention of students. We have many different subsets, they range from subcommittees who are involved in marketing efforts to international students, to graduate students, distance education, overall searches for improving recruitment and retention, and many other subgroups of our student population basically to improve our services and ultimately to enroll our 20,000 students.

Some students praised the increase in enrollment, but say they do not think the university can reach 20,000 students by 2010.

"Well, probably by the year 2010 we're going to be about 16,000," said senior marketing major Elias Quezada, noting that student housing and the quality of education is attracting more students. "We're growing, 16,000 yes but not 20,000."

Luis Gutierrez, a freshman marketing major, said, "I think it's a great achievement for the school. ... I think we might make it to 20,000, [but] maybe not in 2010."



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Profs. y estudiantes ayudan en colonia de Matamoros

Por Analiz González
Reportera

Los estudiantes de las escuelas de Ciencias de la Salud y Educación ayudarán este semestre a mejorar las condiciones de vida de los residentes de la colonia Derechos Humanos de Matamoros.

La colonia se localiza al sur de Matamoros a media hora del puente Los Tomates. Consta de 100 familias con un promedio de 5 niños por familia. El 80 por ciento de los padres están desempleados.

"Estas personas vinieron al norte para encontrar trabajos mas no encontraron empleo, así, que ellos viven en basureros", dijo Mary G. Curtis, profesor asociado de Especialidades Escolares de la Escuela de Educación. "La única manera que tienen para mantenerse es buscar en los basureros algo para arreglar y venderlo. Como se pueden imaginar no es un lugar muy saludable para vivir así que tratamos de darles lo que podemos teniendo en cuenta las limitaciones del ambiente en el que viven".

Sonia Cunningham, instructor asociado técnico en el Departamento de



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Curtis, profesor asociado en la Escuela de Educación, entrega útiles escolares a niños de la colonia Derechos Humanos en Matamoros.

Enfermería, había estado involucrada en proyectos comunitarios en la colonia Derechos Humanos por dos años cuando se dio cuenta que Curtis lo también hacía.

"Ella vino el Día de Acción de Gracias", dijo Cunningham, "y me estaba diciendo 'Voy a llevarme estas cobijas

para allá', y le pregunté, '¿Para que colonia es eso?' Resultó que eso era la misma colonia en la que yo trabajaba y decidimos trabajar juntas".

"La escuela se beneficia ya que son buenas relaciones en la comunidad y tenemos la experiencia, entonces por qué no la compartimos".

Diez estudiantes de la clase de enfermería de Cunningham, "Cuidado de Clientes con Problemas de Salud", participantes de este proyecto no solamente recibirán experiencia al enseñar a los residentes, también les hará apreciar lo que tienen.

"En realidad, lo que se me viene a la mente cuando estoy allá es gratitud", dijo Cunningham. [Los estudiantes]

aprenderán ... a no menospreciar las cosas".

Los estudiantes informarán a los residentes de la colonia lo que hayan aprendido en sus clases de Enfermería o Educación.

"Me gustaría que los estudiantes de Educación participen en la intervención temprana en el retraso del lenguaje y habilidades motoras", dijo Curtis, "para que sus hijos estén mejor preparados para cuando vayan a la escuela".

"También queremos educarlos en procedimientos que ayuden a prevenir a las personas de enfermarse como hervir el agua y el uso de desinfectantes. La doctora que trabaja en la colonia (Dra. Nancy González, de Mano a Mano) ha pedido información en nutrición, en higiene para prevenir el esparcimiento de enfermedades como gripe e influenza y la necesidad de revisiones [de cáncer de seno], y luego en marzo o abril los doctores irán con equipos móviles para hacer mamogramas".

Suministros son vendidos a la gente a precios muy bajos para que ellos no piensen que es un regalo.

"Esperamos que ya que tienen que comprar sus servicios, ropa y pagar el doctor, no lo menosprecien", dijo Curtis. "Tienen la oportunidad de conservar su dignidad a la vez que trabajan para mejorar su vida".

Los resultados que se esperan del proyecto son el proveer servicios para la salud a la comunidad, ayudar a los residentes y cubrir los cuidados médicos con los recursos que se tienen, dijo Cunningham.

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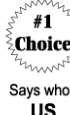
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Por Lorena Cruz
Reportera

Nombre: Raúl Rivera

Edad: 20 años

Promedio: 3.33

Clasificación: estudiante de segundo año

Especialidad: Ciencias de la Computación

Afiliaciones: Presidente del Club Cultural Latinoamericano y miembro del equipo de ajedrez

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¿Cuál ha sido tu reto más grande? "Mi reto más grande ha sido sobresalir en cualquier aspecto".

¿Cuáles son tus metas a corto y largo plazo? "A corto plazo sería ter-



minar mi carrera principalmente y en un futuro, seguir preparándome."

¿Qué has hecho en beneficio de la comunidad? "He ido con el Club Cultural Latinoamericano a asilos de ancianos".

Scorpions split two with Laredo, get chomped by Gators

By Alejandro Rivera
Sports Editor

The UTB/TSC Scorpions had little venom in their sting as they accumulated a 1-4 record during their season-opening week, splitting a doubleheader against Laredo Community College on Feb. 4 at Edinburg and being swept at home by top-ranked San Jacinto College-North on Feb. 1-2.

On Feb. 4 the Scorpions played a doubleheader against the Laredo Community College Palominos, winning the first game 3-1. Starter Bryan Hoskins pitched four innings, getting into trouble by walking batters but managing to pitch his way out of it.

"He just needs to get comfortable out there again and throwing strikes and he'll be OK," Scorpions Head Coach Eliseo Herrera said.

Herrera pulled Hoskins due to a high-pitch count. Hiram Lopez came in and shut out the Palominos for the most part. He was also the winning pitcher. Other notables were Esteban Sanchez, who pitched a shutout inning, and Julio Ruiz, who came in to close out the game and get the save.

"We produced some runs and played pretty good defense," Herrera said about the game.

Game 2 got off to a fast start as sophomore pitcher Mike McCune gave up four runs in the first inning and one in the second. He was relieved by Robert Gomez and, later, Joey Benavides. The Scorpions gave up four more runs, trail-



DAMARIS GLORIA/COLLEGIAN

UTB/TSC President Juliet V. Garcia joined the Scorpions during the moment of silence before their home opener against San Jacinto on Feb. 1 at Scorpion Field.

ing 9-0 before going on a rally. They scored five runs but fell short, losing 9-5.

Herrera said he was impressed by Benavides' performance on the mound.

"The guys kept fighting but we just ran out of innings," Herrera said. "The guys get a sense of what it's like to come back and we're seeing which guys we can and can't depend on in certain situations."

On Feb. 1 the Scorpions opened their season against the top conference team, San Jacinto North Gators. The game began as a pitchers' duel with both teams scoreless until the top of the fourth when, with two outs, the Gators put a rally together, scoring

five runs helped by back-to-back two-run doubles by catcher Martin Dewees and left fielder Cary Nelson. The Gators scored another run in the top of the fifth, making it 6-0, which was the final score.

Scorpion Julio Ruiz took the defeat and Clint Goocher of San Jacinto was the winning pitcher.

Games 2 and 3 saw a complete dominance by the Gators as they won 20-1 and 23-3. The high points for the Scorpions were a home run by Arnold Meza in game 2 that provided the Scorpions' only run and a three-run home run by Julio Ruiz in game 3, also the games' only runs.

Herrera said players Eric Flores, Captain Scott, Gilbert Gonzales, Hawk Scott and Carlos Treviño hit the ball extremely well and Alex Guajardo got two hits off Goocher.

"Our players were a little nervous," Herrera said. "It was a tough task, going up against the No. 1 team in the conference. San Jacinto was a lot more talented than I gave them credit for. I expected them to come out here and play solid baseball but they played extremely dominating baseball."

Herrera says the Scorpions will get better.

"We just make sure that we continue building off the fundamentals that we've established," he said. "We made some mistakes, we have to evaluate

them, learn from them and work on them so that's how this past weekend was not lost. If we fail to learn from the mistakes, then we're not making progress. But if we learn from the mistakes and work on them, then it was worth it."

UTB/TSC President Juliet V. Garcia hurled the first pitch.

Dozens of students in the GEAR-UP program attended the opener, many participating in contests between innings, including a balloon toss, baseball throw and bat spin.

Scorpions Julio Ruiz, Jason Hill, Eric Flores and Hawk Scott all answered the students' questions pertaining to being an athlete in college.

Rosemary De Leon, a seventh-grader from Gutierrez Middle School in Harlingen, enjoyed her first game at UTB/TSC.

"It's fun and exciting because you get to cheer for the team," she said.

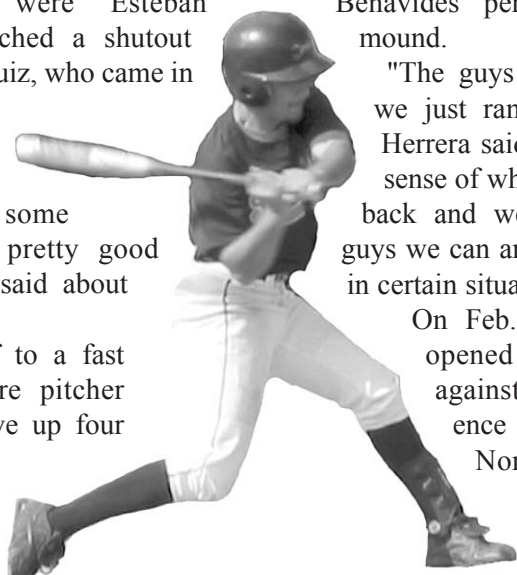
Kayla Cantu, also a seventh-grader at a t

Gutierrez, took part of the balloon toss.

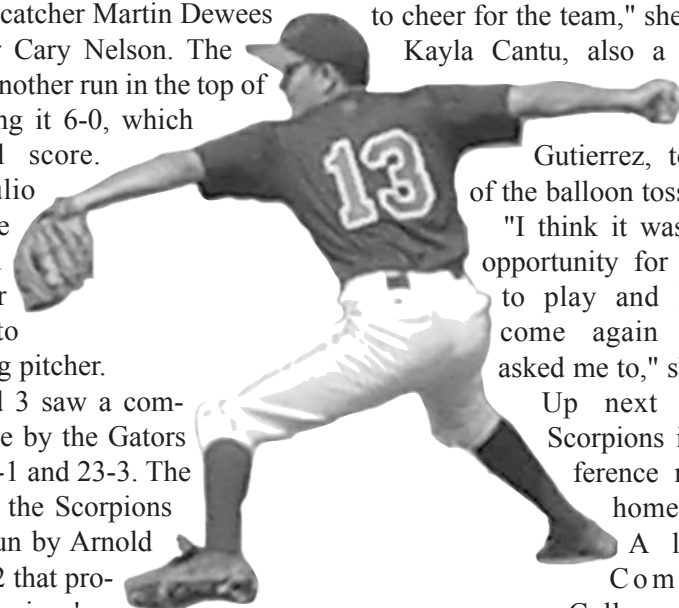
"I think it was a good opportunity for the kids to play and I would come again if they asked me to," she said.

Up next for the Scorpions is a conference match at home against A l v i n Community College, consisting of a doubleheader starting at

noon Saturday and a single game at 11 a.m. Sunday.



DAMARIS GLORIA/COLLEGIAN



SONIA MEJIA/COLLEGIAN

Pitcher Julio Ruiz



DAMARIS GLORIA/COLLEGIAN

GEAR UP students participate in the bat spin game between innings of the Scorpion vs San Jacinto game on Feb. 1 at Scorpion Field.



SONIA MEJIA/COLLEGIAN

Young Scorpion fan

Skippy nets two new Scorpions

By Alejandro Rivera
Sports Editor

Volleyball Coach Roy "Skippy" Brown has been busy preparing for the next season, signing two All-State players from Brownsville's Rivera High School.

Ruth Delgado is a 6-foot-tall middle blocker who received first All-Metro and All-Valley team honors as well as second team All-State. Delgado is happy to stay in Brownsville and looks forward to next year.

"It's my hometown so I'm going to stay here and play for Coach Brown," she said. "I'm going to work hard so I can be starting as a freshman."

Mandy Garcia is a 5-foot-4-inch setter who received All-State Honorable Mention. She has been setting to Ruth for four years now.

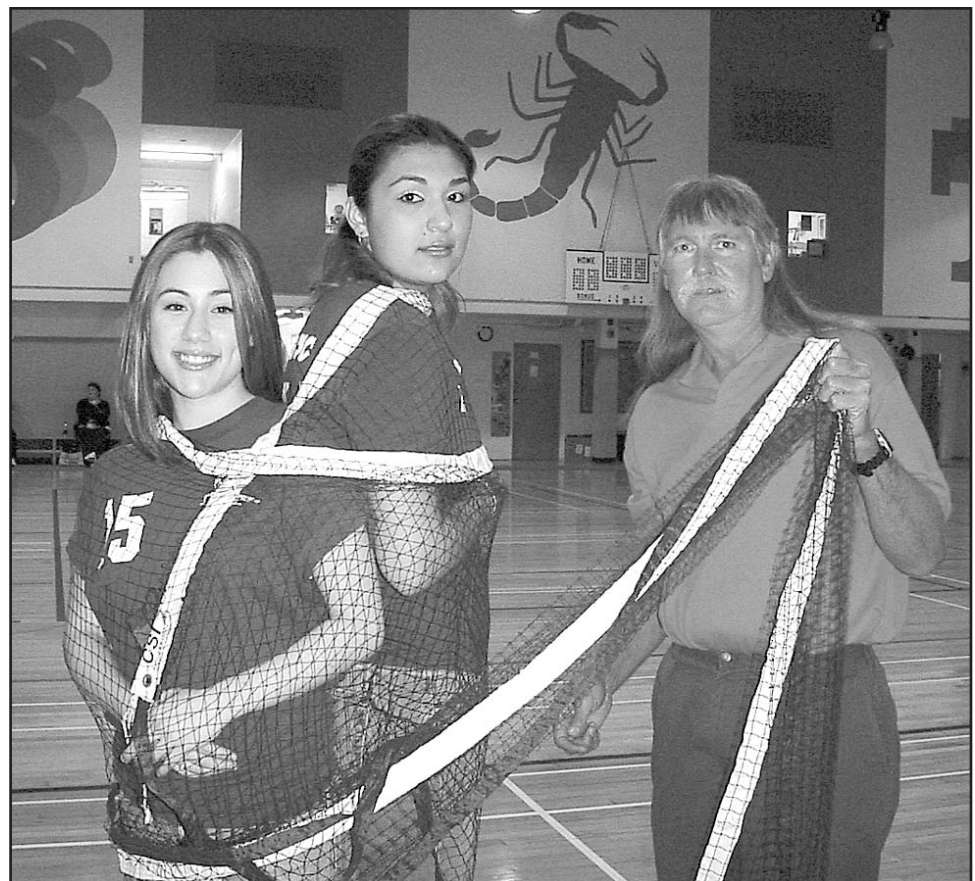
"It's wonderful," she said about getting the chance to play with Delgado again. "It's a good experience and it

will be good for the college because we [have been teammates for four years so I have] high expectations. I have to please my mom. I think it will be good [playing at UTB/TSC]. I think I can hack it."

Brown said he was excited to get both players.

"I think it's absolutely great that I got both of them," he said. "When you get these two girls together it's like you have a quarterback and a wide receiver from college going into the pros together. You can't beat that combination. I'm going to try to put them opposite in the lineup to where Ruth is receiving all her sets from Mandy. If I can do that it will be a great advantage to our team since these girls have played together for years."

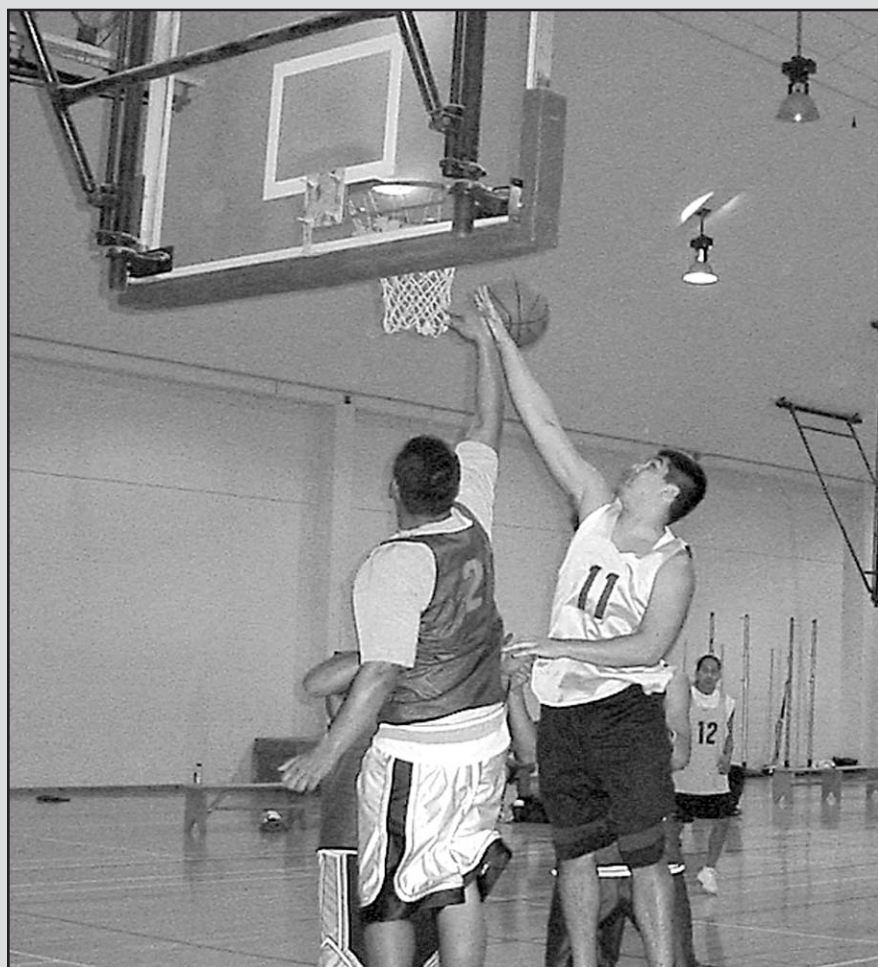
With the combination of the players coming back and the players he is recruiting in the off-season, Brown says he will have a good team and can't wait until next year.



ALEJANDRO RIVERA/COLLEGIAN

Recruits Mandy Garcia (left), Ruth Delgado and Coach Skippy Brown. Both players will graduate from Rivera, where they have played together for the last four years.

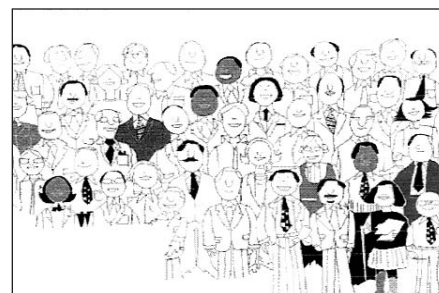
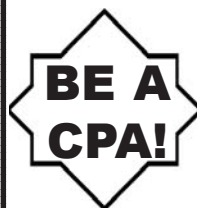
Backboard brawl



VIRGINIA ORTIZ/COLLEGIAN

Freshman computer science major Gerardo Cuellar (left) and pre-med freshman Sergio Martinez go up for the loose ball during the intramural basketball tournament on Feb. 5, at the Garza Gym. Team Old School (in white jersey) won the tournament against The Answer (dark jersey).

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Letter to the Editor

Seventeen years ago, I was a television eyewitness to the tragic events of the space shuttle Challenger as I sat in my second-grade classroom at Russell Elementary. Yesterday, I was a television eyewitness of the disastrous events of the space shuttle Columbia, except this time, I was at the place where the events had occurred.

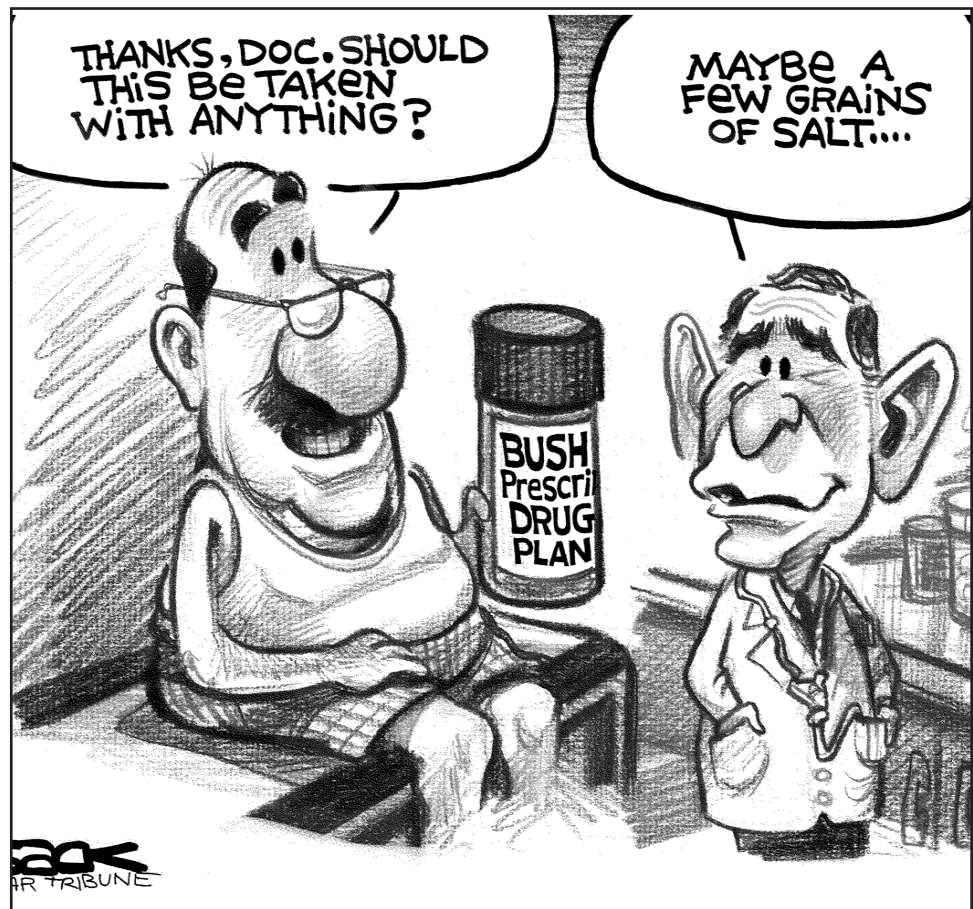
As I awoke and prepared for the day, I watched the morning news and listened to how the reporters spoke about the shuttle landing and about the crew, in particular, Israel's first astronaut [Ilan Ramon]. Suddenly, the regular, local broadcast was interrupted with a special news brief. My first reaction to this was, "Great, we're at war again."

To my surprise, the NBC anchor, in a concerned voice, mentioned how Mission Control in Houston's Johnson Space Center had lost communication with the shuttle during re-entry at 8 a.m. I knew this was a normal breakup in communication, due to the atmosphere. Not more than two seconds after regular programming resumed, the NBC reporter came on again.

At this time, already dressed, I darted outside a cool, yet sunny Dallas morning to catch a glimpse of the already infamous vapor trails left by Columbia. As 8:16 a.m. arrived, the time in which the shuttle was programmed to land at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, I began to worry about the fate of the seven who dared to dream. At a quarter to 9, I left the apartment, only to tune in to the radio as I drove to my destination. I prayed for the crew and asked God to keep them well.

Seventeen years have passed and even though I remember little about the Challenger, and information about Columbia is still being gathered, I know that we must go on. The memory of those who have gone before us, be it through natural cause, through adventure, or through exploration, shall not be erased. The United States and the world will go on. We must continue to explore the depths of space and other frontiers so that we can better understand ourselves as a society. We must not stop dreaming; we must not cease to explore. We must, however, make sure that the death of these brave men and women, who knew the risks they and their families took, is not in vain. God bless the crew, God bless the friends and family members of all who have lost loved ones in service of their countries, and God bless you all.

Alberto J. Pérez
UT-Brownsville, Class of 2000
Dallas



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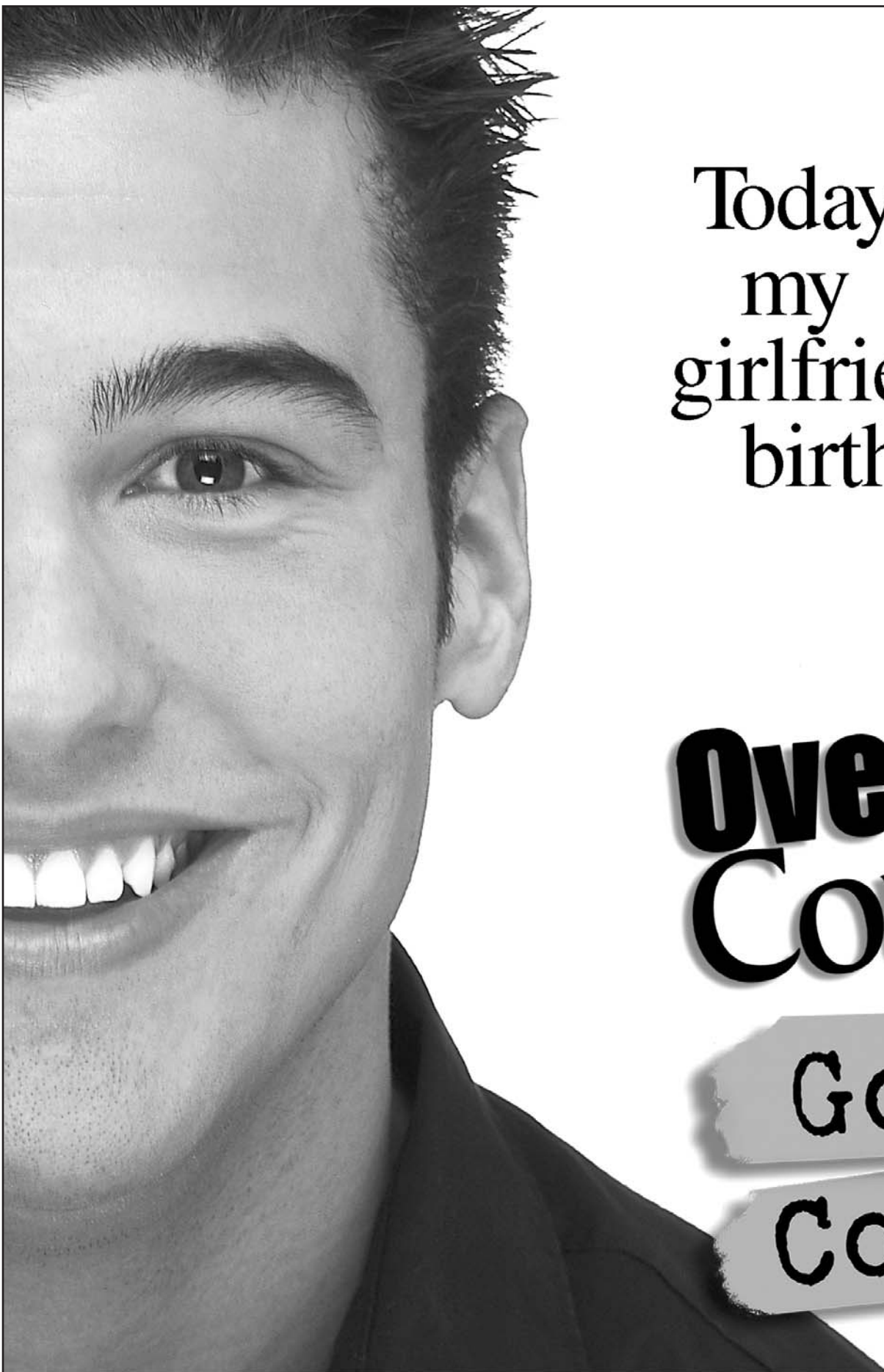
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Happy Valentine's Day



To Lety:

You have been my inspiration in life, and for that I say I love you from the bottom of my heart. You are more than my friend, you are more than my girl, you are the person that I love when I hold you close.



To Nacho from Student Housing:

I've watched you all semester, but I'm very shy, and just wanted to say that I really like you and think you are very sweet. Hope I can build the courage to talk to you soon!

Sincerely,
Admiring you from afar, but wishing I was near.

Para mi Potrillo:

Te quiero decir que eres una persona inolvidable, me encanta tu forma de ser y en este día tan especial aprovecho para decirte que te amo. ¡Feliz Día de San Valentín!

Te quiere,
Tu Hermosa

To Jennifer,

You are my shining star. Your presence illuminates my life with joy. I could gaze up to you eternally.

Love,
Sergio Martinez

To Angelica, Cynthia, Hilda, Mary and Yanet:

Dear friends, I would be lost without your love and support. Thank you for everything.
Your friend,
Sergio

Chuzma:

Kiero ke sepan ke los kiero mucho y ke son unos tipazos y tipazas mega buena onda!

Besos y abrazos,
D. Girl

Para Mi Pakito Pistolas,

Eres un ser muy especial y kerido para mi! Ke el solo recordate me haze sonreir. Espero ke te las pazes super bien este San Valentin y como dice la canción gracias por existir!

Pensando en ti,
Carita de Angel



Gisela Mendoza:

I love you with all my heart, and I will never leave your side.

To Doughnut:

Together in love, so snug and comfortable. I admit you were a bit dirty, but I want to be oh so close to you again.

Love,
Latangametida

Hey, Nancy:

Just want to say that I love you and that I will never leave you. I love you.

Robert

Carmelita:

No matter the weight of the world, your smile can always lift me up. Stay my Valentine.

Kevonito

Efrain Cora,

A pesar de la distancia cada vez pienso más en ti. Tetito, no olvides que te quiero mucho.

Te extraña,
Yanneth

Manuel Castillo:

Gordo, there are not enough words to describe my love for you. You're the one that I will always love and trust.

Your baby,
Marielena



To Lord Adri:

Whenever, wherever, whatever ... just pull the leash and I'll be there. Me and my crows await your command.

Jesse "The Crow"

To Jesse "The Crow" Tabasco:

Thank you for being such a great friend (slave). I own you and your crows!

From,
Adriana Tovar

With a love that held my hand, caressed my soul and turned my head, you're the one that holds my heart. You, my beloved George.

Hey, Hunni Bunni:

Can't wait to spend Valentine's Day with you for the first time as Mr. and Mrs.

Ruiz.
Te amo,
Tu corazón de melón

Thomas:

Why must you be so far? I'll wait anxiously for your return, for the time we'll be together again. I miss you!

Love,
Virginia

To Nick:

My high school sweetheart then, my college sweetheart now. Hope you'll be my Valentine forever.

Love,
Val

Pinchis:

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. You make me happy when skies are gray. You'll never know just how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away.
Panson

To Ginger:

I take this opportunity to let you know that you are a very special person to me, who I appreciate a lot! Happy Valentine's Day.

Your friend,
Jesus

Os mando saludos a la chuzma: José, Rami, Mari, Osito, Moska, Criz, Guzano, Shakirina, Ferny, Pakito y Mz. Kitty.
Pato

Alberto Velez:

Mi bonbonsuelito secreto, te extraño demasiado. Me da pena hablarte porque no me conoces! Eres mi estrella inalcanzable! Te espera un beso inolvidable con tu pastelito!

Erick Vallarino:

I would really like to get to know you because you're really cute, funny and smart. I hope we happen soon!

Cindy

Para Alejandro Sanz,

Cuando nadie me ve solo se me ocurre amarte y siempre es de noche. Quisiera ser tu aprendiz y morir en tu veneno, porque contigo todo es de color y como te hecho de menos. Así que toca para mi porque lo que fui es lo que soy.

Mari,

Para la persona en quien pienso
Cuando estoy despierto
Y con quien sueño
Cuando estoy dormido
Para aquella que me trae
De suspiro en suspiro
a la que quiero más y más
Cada vez que la miro.

Te Quiero!
Tu Osito de peluche

To my Sweetheart,

Hoping you know I love you, even when you kick me in your sleep. Cause I know they're love pats.



Dámaris,

Love is patient, love is kind, love is why you're on my mind.

Love is joyful, love takes awhile, but it always seems to bring a smile. Love is sweet, love is true, love is all I have for you!

Happy Valentine's Day!
Victor

To: Monique

De Soledad y vacío

consistía mi vida

Pero llegaste tu
mi hermosa querida

Y todo cambiaste

Con una sola sonrisa

Llenaste mi ser

De amor y alegría

Quiero que sepas

que siempre te amaré

Que hasta a los cuatro vientos se lo gritaré!

Te quiere tu potrillo

This is going to all the ladies of

UTB/TSC. I wish you a happy Valentine's Day and hope you have a good semester.

Alex "El Alacrán" Salinas



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